


[c.] e. sending an instant message notification from the message notification application via the one instant messaging service to the user when a message arrives on the server for the user.

2. (Canceled)
3. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising the step of retrieving the message by accessing ~~a~~ the server.
4. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 3 wherein the server is one of an application, a voice messaging and a unified messaging server.
5. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 3 further comprising the step of accessing the server by one of sending a request to the message notification application and using a telephone.
-  6. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 3 further comprising the step of retrieving messages from the server by an internet appliance.
7. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 3 further comprising the step of deleting a message using ~~the~~ an internet appliance without retrieving the message from the server.
8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for providing message notification ~~where and when a user is most likely to hear or see notification~~ and allowing ~~the~~ a user to instantly review new messages comprising:
  - a. at least one instant messaging service;
  - b. a message notification application ~~having a buddy list and~~ registered to the at least one instant messaging service, wherein the message notification application includes a buddy list onto which the user is added, thereby associating the user to one of the at least one instant message service that the user is currently using;
  - c. a server for storing messages and providing a medium for the message notification application to operate; and

- d. an internet appliance to access the server and receive an instant message notification from the message notification application via the one instant messaging service, the instant message notification indicates that a new message is stored on the server for the user.
9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 8 ~~wherein in response to a user signing up to receive messages with the message notification application the user is automatically added~~ further comprising means for automatically adding the user to the buddy list of the message notification application in response to the user signing up to receive messages with the message notification application.
10. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 8 wherein the message notification application ~~sends~~ comprises means for sending the user the instant message notification through the ~~at least~~ one instant messaging service when a message arrives for the user.
11. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 8 further comprising means for retrieving the message from the server by one of sending a request to the message notification application and using a telephone.
12. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 8 wherein the server is one of an application, a voice messaging and a unified messaging server.
13. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 8 further comprising means for deleting the message using the internet appliance without retrieving the message from the server.
14. (Currently Amended) A message notification system that ~~operates where and when a user is most likely to hear or see notification and allowing~~ allows the user to instantly review new messages comprising:
- a. at least one instant messaging service;
  - b. a message notification application ~~having a buddy list and~~ registered to the at least one instant messaging service, wherein the message notification application

includes a buddy list onto which the user is added, thereby associating the user to one of the at least one instant message service that the user is currently using;

- c. a server for storing messages and providing a medium for the message notification application to operate; and
- d. an internet appliance to access the server and receive an instant message notification from the message notification application via the one instant messaging service, the instant message notification indicates that a new message is stored on the server for the user.

15. (Currently Amended) The message notification system as claimed in claim 14 ~~wherein in response to a user signing up to receive messages with the message notification application the user is automatically added~~ further comprising means for automatically adding the user to the buddy list of the message notification application in response to the user signing up to receive messages with the message notification application.

X 16. (Currently Amended) The message notification system as claimed in claim 14 wherein the message notification application ~~sends~~ comprises means for sending the user the instant message notification through the ~~at least~~ one instant messaging service when a message arrives for the user.

17. (Original) The message notification system as claimed in claim 14 further comprising means for retrieving the message from the server by one of sending a request to the message notification application and using a telephone.

18. (Original) The message notification system as claimed in claim 14 wherein the server is one of an application, a voice messaging and a unified messaging server.

19. (Original) The message notification system as claimed in claim 14 further comprising means for deleting the message using the internet appliance without retrieving the message from the server.

20. (Currently Amended) A message notification system for a user ~~in an instant messaging system~~ comprising:

- a. means for coupling a message notification application to a server, wherein the server stores messages for the user;
- [a.] b. means for registering a the message notification application to at least one instant messaging service;
- c. means for accessing one of the at least one instant messaging service by the user:
- [b.] d. means for signing a the user onto the message notification application by adding the user to a buddy list of the message notification application thereby associating the user to the one instant messaging service which the user is currently accessing;  
and
- [c.] e. means for sending an instant message notification from the message notification application via the one instant messaging service to the user when a message arrives on the server for the user.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) The message notification system as claimed in claim 20 further comprising means for the user to retrieve the message by accessing a the server.

23. (Original) The message notification system as claimed in claim 22 wherein the server is one of an application, a voice messaging and a unified messaging server.

24. (Original) The message notification system as claimed in claim 22 wherein the user accesses the server by one of sending a request to the message notification application and using a telephone.

25. (Original) The message notification system as claimed in claim 22 wherein the message is retrieved from the server by an internet appliance.

26. (Original) The message notification system as claimed in claim 22 further comprising the step of deleting the message using the internet appliance without retrieving the message from the server.

27. (Currently Amended) A method of providing a voice messaging notification application for a user in an instant messaging system comprising the steps of:
- a. coupling a message notification application to a server, wherein the server stores messages for the user;
  - [a.] b. registering a ~~the~~ message notification application to at least one instant messaging service;
  - c. accessing one of the at least one instant messaging services by the user;
  - [b.] d. adding a ~~the~~ user to a buddy list of the message notification application, wherein the buddy list is associated with ~~of~~ the one instant messaging service;
  - [c.] e. sending an instant message notification to the user ~~from the message notification application via the one instant messaging service~~ when a message arrives on the server for the user; and
  - [d.] f. allowing the user access to a server by one of using an internet appliance and using a telephone.
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